

talked about this and I've somewhat come to his conclusion or his feelings about setting that production credit at a level which, one, does not break the fund, obviously, but is one that's responsible to attract companies to the state to build plants. And to correct my good friend, Senator Schmit, I spent an hour the other day on the phone with Rod Schroeder of the Aurora Co-op and I asked him point blank, I said, Mr. Schroeder, and Rod and I are good friends, I said, Mr. Schroeder, if we struck or we strip the equity investment out of the bill, does that bother you? He said, no. He said, Rod, what we need, what we are working to get this plant here is based upon production credit. So I don't know what Senator Schmit's going to tell them about Rod Johnson doing something to prohibit the plant from coming there but I will tell you this that that is not the basis of the conversation that Mr. Schroeder and I had not more than a couple of days ago. But back to the Senator Moore amendment, my concern, my problem is, I would support the amendment, I still may do it, my concern, my problem is how far does the credibility of this Legislature go in promising or making commitment one year and changing that in midstream another year in relationship to the Hastings situation? As I understand it, most of the legitimate proposals to build plants in Nebraska have all been based upon production credit. I think the plant that Senator Wehrbein is interested in, in Nebraska City, is based upon production credit. I think my conversation with Mr. Schroeder, unless he's led me astray in our conversation, is that they need the production credit. There are several that I think are basing their willingness to come to Nebraska on the production credit issue and that's really at the heart of this whole matter. That's what we're really arguing about is at what level should that fund be and how we should fund it. Now some suggest we should fund it totally out of the ethanol fund. Some have suggested combination of Highway Trust Funds, ethanol funds. Others have said ethanol funds and out of the General Fund. I don't know which is the right route to take but what Senator Moore is doing, obviously, is limiting the exposure of the fund by lowering the production credit from 20 cents to a dime. I may end up voting for that but, in my conscience, I have to say there are some concerns about the direction that we take with the existing production and the promises, if we made any, to the Hastings facility through previous legislation passed a year ago. But most of what Senator Schrock has left in my original amendment are things that, I guess, I tend to agree with. The issue of where that production credit issue is still something we have not yet